

City of Takoma Park Safe Roadways Committee

Meeting Minutes

July 17, 2007

The City of Takoma Park Safe Roadways Committee met on Tuesday, July 17, 2007 in the Atrium Room of the Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland.

Members Present: Sheryl Gross-Glaser, Robert Patten, Greg Castano, Jay Ulfelder, Dan Turner, Margaret Warner, Sanjay Grover, Wolfgang Mergner

Members Absent: Jay Lee, Katherine Kelly

Staff Present: David Suls, Associate Planner

Others Present: Lucy Neher- Takoma Safe Routes to School Coordinator

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00.

2. Approval of Minutes: review and vote on adoption

The minutes from the May 15th, 2007 meeting were reviewed and adopted unanimously.

3. Briefing

Safe Routes to School: Lucy Neher, the Coordinator of the Takoma Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS), spoke with the committee about her background and the first month of work on SRTS.

The SRTS Coordinator's work includes assisting participating schools in organizing Walk to School Day on October 3rd, bicycle and pedestrian safety workshops, safe route mapping projects, a trail construction project, outreach to PTA's, and pedestrian safety contests.

The SRTS Program is funded by a federal grant and will continue until July 2008 with a possible extension depending on funding.

4. Action Items

Vegetation overgrowth: "trim it or ticket." The committee discussed the problem of vegetation obstructing parts or whole sections of sidewalk, making it difficult for people to walk safely in the neighborhood. Section 12.08.030 of the City Code prohibits obstruction of the sidewalk; considered a Class D municipal infraction. The committee decided to perform public outreach to

remind residents and recommend to council before next summer that warnings be posted on offending residences.

Action: Dan Turner will draft an article for the City newsletter.

Takoma Junction: Greg Castano asked for reconfiguration of the signal timing at the Junction and discussed the possibility of holding a Charrette for this area.

Action: City staff will contact State Highway Administration.

Old Town Takoma: the Committee discussed the parking and pedestrian safety issues relating to proposed development projects in Old Town.

Sligo Creek Parkway: The City is working with MNCPPC to redesign the intersection of Sligo Creek Parkway and Maple Avenue as part of the SRTS Project. Jay Ulfelder asked if there are other planned traffic calming changes along Sligo Creek Parkway.

Action: Jay Ulfelder will contact MNCPPC regarding traffic problems at the intersection of Sligo Creek Parkway with Kennebec/Houston. Depending on the conversation, Jay may draft a letter requesting improvements to be endorsed by SRC and sent to SHA.

Sidewalk Inventory: the committee discussed a citywide sidewalk inventory.

Action: Bob Patten will work with Katherine Kelly on accessing GIS data. The strategy for completing the Inventory in FY08 will be discussed at the Committee's November meeting, when possible funding sources will be verified.

5. Announcements / Updates

FY08 Planned Capital Improvements: The City's Public Works Director, Daryl Braithwaite, will present an overview of the planned Capital Improvements at the September meeting. The Safe Routes to School project is funding a sidewalk installation on Grant Avenue and the reconstruction of the intersection of Maple Avenue and Sligo Creek Parkway.

Neighborhood Traffic Studies: Wallace, Montgomery and Associates will present the findings to Council on September 4th for the Long Branch/Sligo, New Hampshire Gardens and Pinecrest neighborhoods.

New Hampshire Avenue Charrette: David Suls explained the planning process and desired outcomes of the upcoming Charrette to be held August 14-20th. Sheryl Gross-Glaser will attend the Charrette workshops representing SRC.

6. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully Submitted

David Suls, Associate Planner

Approved

Robert Patten, Chair